

- (d) whether such dividends shall help the Government to bridge its fiscal deficit;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) In the light of Public Sector Banks' (PSBs) special role and importance in the banking industry and in advancing the economic policies of the Government, in 2008, the Government asked all the Ministries/Departments and Central Public Sector Enterprises to place at least to the extent of 60% of their surplus funds with PSBs. The said instructions have again been reiterated in 2012 with certain modification (available on website <http://financialservices.gov.in/>). In so far as dividend is concerned, it is a stream of revenue to the shareholders including the Government and is declared by the respective boards of PSBs keeping in view their profit, relevant legal provisions and extant instructions on the subject.

Implementation of Swabhiman Scheme in Bihar

†200. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started "Swabhiman Scheme" to facilitate the small farmers in rural areas in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the number of districts which have been included under this scheme;
- (c) how much amount has been spent so far under this scheme in Bihar; and
- (d) the details of special features of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Government launched "Swabhimaan- the Financial Inclusion Campaign", under which banking facilities were provided to over 74,000 unbanked habitations having population in excess of 2000 (2001 Census) during 2010-12, primarily through the model of Business Correspondents. In the State of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bihar, 9206 such habitations were provided with banking facilities by March, 2012. In 2012-13, Swabhimaan was extended to habitations which had population of 1000 or more (2001 census) in North East and Hilly States and habitations which had a population of 2000 or more (2011 census). In Bihar 3052 villages with population of 1600 or more (2001 census) were identified. By December 2012, banking facilities have been extended to 145 habitations. The Government had not earmarked any funds for implementation of Swabhimaan scheme.

Merging of Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank

201. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government is considering the sentiments of Federal and linguistic States as in practice while merging the banks such as Indian Bank (1930) and Indian Overseas Bank (1936) established by citizens of Tamil Nadu, Sivaganga Districts, Kanadu Kathan to have separate identity of State since only these two are nationalized banks from the State with largest branch network and customers base in India and overseas with 'Chettinadu Culture'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): There is no proposal with the Government for merging Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.

Measures taken for fiscal consolidation

202. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the planned fiscal consolidation over the period of the Twelfth Plan;

(b) the details of work map through which Government plans to adopt the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee; and

(c) the details of other steps does Government plan to take to reduce the current account deficit from 4.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 3.7 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government has decided to adopt the following plan of fiscal consolidation during the period of the 12th Plan, *i.e.* from 2012-13 to 2016-17: